



News From

Cheryl Dinolfo

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

Thursday, October 27, 2016

DINOLFO ANNOUNCES STEPS TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN & FAMILIES ON HALLOWEEN

County, Law Enforcement and Medical Professionals Issue Community-Wide Safety Tips

Monroe County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** joined Sheriff **Patrick O'Flynn** as well as local medical professionals today to announce that Monroe County police agencies are taking steps to keep children and families safe this Halloween. This includes an effort led by Monroe County Probation to monitor high-risk sex offenders.

*"Every year, children and families in Monroe County have a wonderful time celebrating Halloween weekend, and it is our responsibility to help ensure they remain safe," said **Dinolfo**. "Sex offenders have violated the trust of our community in the past, and our Probation Officers will ensure they cannot do so again. Law enforcement professionals will be out in force during prime trick-or-treating hours to keep children safe throughout our community."*

Dinolfo announced the continuation of this important public safety initiative which will help protect children and families on Halloween by monitoring sex offenders residing in Monroe County. The County's Department of Probation is ordering 105 sex offenders to not decorate their homes for the holiday, to turn off their home's exterior lights, and to not answer their doors or give out candy. County Probation Officers will conduct surveillance and home visits to enforce these restrictions.

While law enforcement will be out in force, they also remind families of what they can do to keep their children safe this Halloween.

*"Halloween may be a fun time for kids but it is a significant concern for parents", said Sheriff **Patrick O'Flynn**. "We urge parents to accompany their young children and plan to go out before dark. We urge trick-or-treaters to travel in groups. Finally, I advise drivers to be extra vigilant when driving in residential neighborhoods as children will be dressed in dark clothing and dart across roadways. It's my hope that everyone will be cautious so as to ensure a safe and happy Halloween"*

New this year, Monroe County is partnering with the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) to issue guidelines and safety tips for parents with children. Every year, accidents take place that can be avoided with proper education and caution.

-more-

*“Halloween is a big part of the kid experience each year,” said **Dr. Mark Gestring**, Director of the Kessler Trauma Center. “Our goal is to make it as safe as possible. We encourage trick-or-treaters to be aware of their surroundings at all times and to stay clear of moving traffic as much as possible. Flashlights and reflective materials help you to be seen in the dark. We also ask drivers to be aware that there will be increased foot traffic during the evening hours on Halloween and to be extra vigilant during this time.”*

In addition to the attached recommendations, **Dinolfo** offered the following tips for parents and caregivers on Halloween night:

- Have your child carry a flashlight and wear well-fitting shoes
- Plan out a route in advance
- Trick-or-treat in familiar neighborhoods or areas
- Only trick-or-treat at houses that are lit
- Keep track of time and do not trick-or-treat after 9 p.m.

###

Media Inquiries, contact:

Department of Communications at 753-1080